

March, 1922.



## L'UMILE PIANTA

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### Officials of the Association.

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MISS L. GRAY, 3, St. David's Avenue, Bexhill, Sussex.

*Hon. Assistant Secretary—*

MISS F. W. YOUNG, 102, Cranbrook Road, Ilford, Essex.

*Hon. Editor—*

MISS J. R. SMITH, 9, Darnaway Street, Edinburgh.

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MISS V. C. CURRY, St. Hilda's Merry Hill, Bushey.

MRS. ESSLEMONT, 226, Gloucester Terrace, W.2.

MRS. PICTON HUGHES-JONES, Pond Hill Cottage, Cheam,  
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MISS M. W. KITCHING, 18, Hastings Road, Ealing, W.13.

MISS M. LAMBERT, 3, Queen's Gardens, Hyde Park, W.2.

MISS R. A. PENNETHORNE, 26, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

MISS K. OSBORN, 52, Creffield Road, Ealing, W.5.

Ambleside Old Students' Association

# STUDENTS' CONFERENCE

April 28th—May 3rd, 1922.

#### *Executive Committee:*

MISS KITCHING.	MRS. ESSLEMONT.
MISS BERNAU.	MISS CURRY.
MISS PENNETHORNE.	MISS LAMBERT.
MISS OSBORN.	

#### *Ex-Officio:*

Hon. Ed.: Miss J. R. SMITH.  
Hon. Sec. and Treas.: Miss GRAY.  
Hon. Ass. Sec.: Miss YOUNG.

'RING OUT THE OLD: RING IN THE NEW.'

TENNYSON.

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME.

April 28th. Friday.	April 29th. Saturday.	April 30th. Sunday.	May 1st. Monday.	May 2nd. Tuesday.	May 3rd. Wednesday.
10-0—12-30 Miss Allen in the Chair. — Miss Mason's Letter. Announcement of S.E.C. Discussion of Miss Franklin's Letter. (See Oct. Plant.)	9-30—12-30. Miss Cholmondeley in the Chair. — Open Association Meeting.		9-30—10-0 Demonstration Lessons. 10—10-30 Paper on the Book of Centuries by Miss Bernau. 10-30—11-0. Discussion of Lessons. — 11-30. "Our Principles." Miss Mason. — 12-30 Propaganda Discussion.	9-30—10-30. Demonstration Lessons. 10-30—11-0. Discussion of Lessons. — 11-30. "P.N.E.U. as a Service of the State." Miss Mason.	9-0—10-0. "Out of Door Nature Study." Miss Drury. — 10-0—11-0. "Education is the Science of Relations." Miss Parish.
2-30—4-0. Miss Eleanor Frost in the Chair. — Guiders' Conference.	2-30. Hockey Match.	4-15 Meditations. Tea.	2-30. Geography Nature Bird } Walks.	2-30. Geography Nature Bird } Walks.	Free.
8-0—10-0. Old Students' "At Home" at Scale How. (Book Evening).	8-0—10-0 Miss Mason's "At Home" at Scale How.		8-0—10-0. Entertainment by present Students at Scale How.	8-0—10-0. "The Mummers" at Scale How.	8-0—10-0. Fancy Dress Dance at Scale How.

### CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

1910. HUMFREY, D. G., c/o Mrs. Jardine Paterson, Balgray,  
Lockerbie, N.B.  
1906. OLIVER, D. M., Stonycrest, Hindhead, Surrey (sole).  
1914. WHITFIELD, M. A. H., 41, Park Lane, Wembley Hill,  
Middlesex; 3, Queen's Gardens, Hyde Park, W.2.

### MARRIAGE.

KEMBER—WOOD. On Wednesday, October 12th, at the Cathedral, Hong Kong. Gladys Frances, daughter of Harold Kember, to John Roskrug Wood.

### NOTICES.

There will be a Students' Meeting at the Leisure Club, on Saturday, June 3rd, at 3-30, when we hope that those who could not be at the Conference will be able to hear about it from those who were there.

#### *Important.*

Will all students who have any subject to bring before the Conference at the open Association Meeting on Saturday morning, April 29th, send it in writing to Miss Gray before April 25th. The Committee is to meet on the evening of the 27th at Ambleside, when the agenda of that meeting will be drawn up. This will be posted up in the Y.M.C.A. on Friday for all to see.

#### *Baby Gallery.*

Will all the "Mothers" who possibly can do so, send or bring pictures of their children (snaps or otherwise) to the Conference, so that we may make their acquaintance. This should be one of the most interesting parts of the Conference. Miss Gray will hold herself responsible for any that are sent to her before April 25th, at 3, St. David's Avenue, Bexhill, and will return them as soon as possible after the Conference is over.

#### *College Blazers.*

The question of College Blazers has come up and many seem keen to have them. There will be sketches of different designs and colours—with particulars of cost—on view at the Conference, and students are asked to study these so that some definite decision may be arrived at.

#### *Conference "At Home," Friday evening at Scale How.*

Will all present wear the emblem of a Children's book, and bring a list of any others she can recommend, so that a good list may be compiled for the office.

"Old Students" are asked to come prepared with Songs or music, in case they may be asked to contribute to the general entertainment.

*To Guiders.*

All Guiders who are going to the Conference are asked to bring uniform to wear at the Guiders' Meeting.

**MINUTES OF THE S.E.C. MEETING. HELD FEBRUARY 7th, AT BRYANSTON STREET.**

*Present:* Misses Bernau, Kitching, Young, Lambert, Osborn and Gray. Miss Kitching in the chair.

1. The minutes of last meeting were read.
2. Miss Pennethorne, who was unable to be present, wrote suggesting that Miss Monro and Miss Brookes, both of whom are in England, should be asked to speak about their work at the Students' Meeting on March 4th. This was agreed to and Miss Pennethorne is to be asked to write to them about it. The next meeting at the Leisure Club is fixed for Saturday, June 3rd.
3. A letter was read from the Hon. Sec. of the Y.W.C.A. at Ambleside stating the terms upon which we can use the rooms at the Conference. These were accepted.
4. A letter was read from Miss Mason and her suggestions for the Conference were discussed and the programme drawn up. A printed copy will be added to this minute.
5. A suggestion from Miss Mason that we might like to hold our "At Home" on Friday evening, April 28th, was accepted with pleasure.
6. It was arranged for the S.E.C. to meet at Kelsick House on April 27th (evening) to draw up an Agenda for the Open Association Meeting to be held on Saturday morning, and Students are to be asked to send in subjects for discussion before April 25th to Miss Gray. The Agenda to be posted up on Friday, April 28th.
7. Miss Curry and Miss Lowe are to be asked to start the Guiders' Conference on the Friday afternoon.
8. Miss Pennethorne is to be asked to compile the list of children's books from the lists brought by Students on April 28th.
9. The various duties of the Conference were apportioned as follows:—

Nameplates—Miss Young.  
Tickets—Miss Osborn.  
Signing the register—Miss Lambert.  
Photo. group—Miss Bernau.  
Baby Gallery—Miss Grey.

10. A vote of thanks to Miss Lambert and her Committee was passed for the success of the "Social" on January 11th.

**BALANCE SHEET, 1921.**

RECEIVED.	£ s. d.	PAID AWAY.	£ s. d.
*122 Subs. at 5/- ..	80 10 0	Jan.-July General Expenses	1 13 6
12 Subs. at 3/6 ..	2 2 0	Jan. Paper (Miss Bernau)	0 2 0
1 Subs. at 21/- ..	1 1 0	Feb. Jan Magazine ..	9 12 6
25 Badges at 6/- ..	7 10 0	April March Magazine ..	5 12 6
Int. on deposit A/c. ..	10 6 10	July June Magazine ..	5 0 0
		Aug.-Dec. General expenses	2 0 2
		Sept. Telegram (Miss	
		Mason) ..	0 2 6
		Oct. To Miss Young	
		(1920-21) ..	5 8 6
		Nov. To 24 Badges at 6/-	7 4 0
		October Magazine	10 10 0
		Dec. To J.R. Smith ..	1 14 0
		Deficit on 1920 ..	1 5 3
			50 4 11
		Balance in hand ..	1 4 11
			£51 9 10

\* This number includes several that should have been paid last year.

LILIAN GRAY,  
*Hon. Treasurer.*

I am glad that the deficit of last year has been wiped out, but if Students will compare the number of subscriptions received with the number of members of the Association they will realise that many still remain unpaid—and unless these are sent in we cannot get the balance in hand that we ought to have. Sixty-six students have paid the full life membership fee and twenty-four are paying by instalments and may I remind these that the second instalment is now over due, and only ten have been received. Even with these ninety members, only 225 subscriptions have been received. There are still over 50 unpaid. There is a deposit at the bank of £404, which includes the £47 10s. that was collected for Miss Williams. The ten guineas annual fee for the Leisure Club for last year and for this has been paid out of the deposit account, as there was no balance waiting to meet this additional expense. Please send me your subscriptions now!

LILIAN GRAY.

**SCALE HOW MISSION FUND.**

The account of this Fund for 1921 could not be published in the January PIANA as several subscriptions were late coming in. The total subscribed was £7 12s. Of this £4 12s. has been sent to

Miss Janet Smyth, and £8 to Miss Clendinnen. (Several subscriptions were ear-marked for Uganda).

One subscription for 1922 has already been received and it is the largest that has so far ever been given. The Treasurer hopes many more subscribers will follow the lead of this generous giver and so make the total for this year a more worthy gift from such a large band of students.

The accounts given last year by both Miss Smyth and Miss Clendinnen of their work show that the money is used for education of the highest kind.

#### LETTERS.

Scale How,  
Ambleside,  
February 18th.

Dear Past Students,

One of the first things that struck us on returning to "Scale How" on January 18th, was the glorified Class Room. The ceiling has been redone, the walls freshly distempered (alas for the Italian inscription!) and a new window made, which is a vast improvement.

The Millet House and the School have been endowed with electric light and the cubes therefore consider themselves highly superior!

It started to snow before we had all arrived and has continued to do so, at intervals, ever since. The first heavy fall was more than a foot deep. Rydal Water was frozen several days last week, so that we had visions of skating, which have since been dashed to the ground.

Unfortunately 'flu started its ravages at the beginning of the term and victim after victim succumbed and retreated to the Millet House, until places at meals became sadly conspicuous and the Millet House was in danger of being overcrowded! At School the numbers were reduced to four and five.

All the non-flu'ites (Juniors and Seniors) gave an entertainment to the rest of College on February 4th. There was an exciting Drama, in Russian Ballet, a pretty Dancing Fantasy in a wood, and an admirable cinematograph performance.

Previous to this the Juniors had entertained us in the Class Room one Saturday evening by a delightfully humorous performance of "Aladdin" as a Pantomime. There was an adorably ridiculous clown, with a red nose, who sat on the floor knitting a camisole for his hot water bottle, until he got so entangled that he was forced to stop and extricate himself. Aladdin, and the Princess, the Genii and Wicked Uncle were all very well impersonated and an orchestra of combs, provided musical entertainment during the intervals.

Some lovers of Bird Walks may be interested to hear that the Tufted Duck and Red-throated Diver, have been seen on Windermere.

The school mistresses now change on Monday so that Sunday is the last instead of first day at "Fairfield."

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Conference next term.

Yours truly,  
THE PRESENT STUDENTS,

P.N.E.U. School,  
Alverstoke,  
Hants.

Dear Editor,

I am writing to suggest that at the coming Conference of A.O.S.A. at Ambleside this Spring there should be an Exhibition of P.N.E.U. work. Each school or family would be allowed to send not more than three exhibits in some of the following branches, totalling, say, nine exhibits in all:—

Writing, Drawing, Handicrafts, Nature Study, Century Books, Needlework.

I should be very glad to help in the arrangement of the Exhibition if it meets with the approval of the Association and would be responsible for the printing and sending out of labels for the exhibits. I should suggest that exhibitors should send me their lists of exhibits as soon as possible. A small charge would be made to cover cost of labels. I am aware that Nature Notebooks, Century Books and Needlework have been on view at Ambleside Conferences before, but I believe that if the Exhibition were to have a more prominent place at the next Conference it would be of great use and interest to both teachers and pupils.

I am, etc.,  
MARION KING.

Oare House,  
Marlborough,  
Wilts.,  
February 2nd, 1922.

Dear Editor,

On the 14th of this month I am taking over a Nursing Home at Hindhead about which I enclose a small book.

I am hoping to have a ward for about six invalid and cripple children for whom I hope to have a student from the House of Education as well as fully trained nurses.

I have always felt that so much valuable time in a child's life is wasted by illness and I propose to try to tide over the gap

which is bound to arise with the help of the Parents' Union School. If any ex-students are interested I shall be delighted to see them at any time if they will kindly write to me at Stonycrest, Hindhead, Surrey.

Yours faithfully,  
D. M. OLIVER.

### CALAIS.

Queen Mary said that Calais would be found written on her heart yet so far as history records she had never seen it with her eyes.

Until the war we may doubt whether more than a handful of English folk had ever seen more of Calais than the railway clock tower and the sand dunes above the breakers.

Thousands and thousands of 'Tommies' made the acquaintance of the place during the war years and have left indelible traces there—whether in the disastrous condition of the Tower of the Hotel de Ville or in the fact that you can now obtain real tea in at least three places.

This summer Calais saw a new invasion, for there was held an International Educational Conference at which fourteen nations were represented by some 150 persons.

As a delegate there the writer saw Calais from every point of view, for the local authorities and the municipality did everything in their power to make the fortnight of the Conference a real "regional survey" for those who attended it.

We discovered then that Calais really consists of two towns—the old Courgain and city of the English occupation, and the modern industrial hive of lace-making called St. Pierre.

The old town rejoices in a great square, the Place d'Armes, with a fine clock tower above the Museum, and a tumbled, crowded fishermen's quarter, the Courgain and the wonderful old fortified Church of St. Mary, with its great yard enclosed in bastions. In front of the inner basin of the harbour where all the little fishing smacks lie there is a wonderful statue of a fisherman going to the rescue of his comrades and just about to throw them a saving rope. The figure is alive and moving and beautiful, yet perfectly natural and ordinary. Between the 'Courgain' and the sea lie the sand dunes and the forts—one road goes between them and bears the train down to the casino past another triumph of statuary—"Le Plongeon," which is the monument to the lost submarines. Up from grey leaden waves comes the conning tower of a grey submarine, but its tilt shows that this is its last plunge—the end is coming. Then straight down out of heaven sweeps an angel of bronze who has thrust one arm down the conning tower to liberate the souls of those within. A marvellous conception marvellously executed, the mere technical skill of the

figure's poise, head downwards and feet in air, is so amazing. The sands themselves with their rows of beach-huts and 'duck board' walks are like any other 'plage' at home or abroad, but the sand is white and very clean—the dunes are delightfully remote to burrow into for those who like to spend a whole day with the waves, and though the sands were crowded with families of good bourgeois we never once heard a child cry on them in the whole fortnight. The views were quite marvellous, for the visibility happened to be far better than usual, and we could see the English coast from Dungeness to Kingsdown, and follow the course of the daily steamer from Dover to its arrival. Going back into the town there were delightful corners—the Tour de Guise suggested one chapter of history and the 'Cat-House' with its stone minette commemorates a story which laid the fortunes of a Kentish family of Huguenot refugees who still use the stone cat as their crest!

The market in the Place d'Armes was a joy for crockery and veils and food were all worth looking at and bargaining for. One wonders if anyone knows what peaches are like who has not bought them by the kilo and eaten them with sand instead of sugar to "roughen" them!

The new St. Pierre lies on the other side of the public park outside which Reden's 'Burghers' stand in perpetuity—the awful size and emaciation of their famine-stricken hands is so terribly noticeable in a land where most middle-aged people are comfortably plump! The trade of St. Pierre is lace and tulle making—machine made—lace for indeed Jacquard who invented the looms was a Calais man, and stands all of marble in a frock coat adored by marble ladies in carved marble lace trimmed evening frocks in front of the new theatre. We travellers were fortunate enough to come in for the Fête des Dentelles—the Sunday procession of the lace workers with their annually elected Queen. Every firm sent cars wonderfully decked in lace and tulle and flowers and the Queen and her maidens all in white lace robes were wonderful to behold. We also went over a lace mill and a Technical School where the boys are taught to work the machinery and to draw patterns—a model school where they insist on general education as well as technical.

This new town has its own market and two large modern churches and a country quarter with villas along the banks of a canal. The actual country inland was a great stretch of corn-fields with very "English" wild flowers in the sandy chalky soil.

After the burnt and baked condition of England the country did not seem nearly so parched though we only got water in the evenings in the College Sophie Berthelot where we were all quartered. Going up country to Arras one day took us through the devastated districts and terrible though they are it was hearten-

ing and encouraging to find that the population were all back and at work, the fields were golden with corn and the wild flowers—Viper's Bugloss of two kinds—marjoram and Thyme and Mullein were covering all the land which we were told would grow nothing again.

Arras itself was a curious spectacle, a big important town—alive and thriving with half its houses being rebuilt, about a quarter abandoned as hopeless and repairs going on in every one of the great gabled houses of the famous Grand Place. The cathedral—which reminds one forcibly of the Brompton Oratory was an awful sight. One transept had been blown clean out and lay in ruins by the street—on the other side a Grecian urn entwined with a wreath remained untouched and could be seen precariously balanced on a half-dislodged coping. The great steps up to the west front were already grass grown, but the facade was shored up and there were some signs of repairs beginning. What the town must have been like when the Cathedral, the Town Hall—a gutted shell and the former Bishop's Palace were all merrily blazing one shudders to think. Dante's City of Dirs must have been peaceful in comparison. To the greedy one may add that Arras makes a special kind of apple tart 'Coeurs d'Arras' which once tasted is never forgotten. We stopped on the way back at Hazebrouck, another town formerly part of the Netherlands and still so 'Dutch' that there were many inscriptions in Flemish in the Parish Church and wonderful wood carvings which looked worthy of Grinling Gibbons. Otherwise it was a peaceful sleepy little place with canals and barges and an atmosphere of afternoon repose.

Another day we devoted to Boulogne and were again received and fêted by the authorities and conducted over the big boys' 'College Mariette' and taken up to the cliff tops to see the ruins of Caligula's Tower and the column which commemorates Napoleon's Camp. Walking all through the fish market and the fishermen's quarters was a mixed joy—it would have been better to have neither ears nor nose, but two fish wives slicing steaks out of a large porpoise remain indelibly on the memory!

Altogether we had a fortnight of impressions and encounters, none of them without interest, and now we only count the months until summer comes again and we can once more go in search of 'Golden sands across the channel.'

R. PENNETHORNE.

#### WET WOODS.

November rain had fallen gently and persistently from early dawn till noon; as it pressed down steadily and increasingly through the rain-soaked earth, it gave one the feeling that the souls condemned to live in perpetual rain, described by Dante,

must have felt, those who would not enjoy the sweet air and sunshine here and know their happiness and joy. But at length as if wearied of her tears, the clouds though still grey and languid, sighed and ceased, and with the lull, I wandered forth to reach a well-known wood, and there in the midst of the rain-hung foliage and pressed against a shining beech, I waited. The wet mud glistened along the narrow paths, oozing through pools of water, and all around flame-coloured Raindrops collected at the edge of the leaves, and over-burdened fell tinkling on the leaves below.

Overhead and travelling with eager speed through the branches, a family of tits came chattering. I listened to their varied notes, and watching their busy activity and cheerful ways, thought of them as a type of those who thrifty and industrious, practical and prudent, are, within their own way of life, beautiful and complete.

But they were soon out of sight, and in marked contrast, unheard and unhurrying "an owl from nowhere with no sound" flew by, from silence into silence moving. He sailed through the branches on noiseless wings, and reaching out careful feet alighted on the next tree, in my sight. Calm and deep, his round eyes searched the gloom, and satisfied with his penetration settled down to what appeared to be profound contemplation. Untroubled by what went on around him, and undisturbed as it were by new motions of the age, by mechanical inventions, and civilisation that does not keep abreast of culture, he seemed the epitome of the wisdom of the ages.

As I shifted my position, one foot rustling the leaves he quietly peered in my direction and not being sure of an unfamiliar object, silently flew off to deeper sanctuary, then to await the approach of twilight. Swiftly and unerringly then he would provide himself with the food and needs of his daily life.

From the depths of the trees a woodpecker called, his echoing voice, filling the wood with waves of sound and leaving it more sombre in the after silence. The healing smell of earth, moist leaves and woody bark, penetrated and hung upon the air.

Wet leaves fell idly down, and round the edge of the wood a blue mist was circling; as it deepened, only the boles of the trees stood out, and suddenly they became symbols, emblems of immortality, life with its roots here on earth, and its finer breath and being above the mists of this world.

The spirit of the place was abroad and for a few moments I too seemed to become a part of it. The heaving earth was one with the pulse of life in the trees, and the leaves given back in triumph to the mother who bore them transformed and invisible became the givers of new life to future generations.

J. WILKINSON.

**P.N.E.U. CONFERENCE.**

50, Porchester Terrace,  
Hyde Park, W.2.

Dear Students,

May I ask your help in making the P.N.E.U. Conference known? It is to be held at Ambleside from May 29th to 1st June. I think very often a word from the student may have great influence with the postess and a personal note is most valuable in emphasising the importance of taking this unique opportunity of meeting Miss Mason, and of seeing her principles carried out.

All particulars of the Conference will appear each month in the REVIEW.

Tusting you will help in this way,

Yours sincerely,  
**H. FRANKLIN,**  
Hon. Sec., P.N.E.U.

